

# SERVICE LETTERS

The Times-Call received the following letter from Staff Sgt. Earl G. Pingel, who is now serving with the army in Netherlands East Indies, regarding the need for quarters for soldiers' families:

Editor, Times-Call,  
Longmont, Colo.

Would you please publish the following item for the information and guidance of the people of Longmont, preferably where it is noticeable.

"People of Longmont: As a soldier who has been in this struggle since 1939, I can truthfully say that either your town is slipping and losing that Western hospitality, or you don't seem to realize exactly what we soldiers are fighting this war for. You know, we would also like to be in on a few of the nice wages and be able to help our families at home, instead of wading in mud and eat-

ing only because we have to rather than because we enjoy it. But, take it from me we aren't fighting for a town that seems to disregard the requests and pleas of our wives for a house to rent or a place to live. No—we are fighting for a little town that used to be proud of its servicemen and attempted to help their wives. This all leads up to an incident that occurred while I was on my last furlough in September, 1944.

Knowing that I was shipping to foreign service, I tried to get a house for my wife and children. But most of the people seemed to classify children as household pets and were afraid that the house or contents might become damaged. That wasn't just the attitude of one but of many.

Now, after a continuous search, since that time, I find the attitude still the same. May I ask you, while we are over here doing the dirty work, isn't it possible that the citizens of our home town could go out of their way just a

little to help our wives and families? We are doing part of your job so how about helping do a little of ours?

If there is someone left in the town who feels it won't be too much trouble to inform my wife of a house available, or to be available. I'm sure she would really appreciate it. I know I would. A soldier can do a much better job if he knows that his loved ones are secure and comfortable until he returns.

I am asking the editor of the Times-Call to publish this in hopes—just in hopes. My name is not to be withheld and I would like to hear from anyone who wishes to differ with me in this opinion. I'm sure I have a good argument if experience is a good teacher. My wife may be reached by calling Longmont 209W, just in case there is still anyone with any hospitality left.

Sincerely,  
Staff Sgt. Earl G. Pingel,  
6291260.

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